

Commonwealth Cleanup Week Environmental Education Contest

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is Commonwealth Cleanup Week?

The 1998 Kentucky General Assembly designated the fourth week in March as Commonwealth Cleanup Week, an opportunity for citizens to come together and "spring clean" Kentucky. The upcoming 7th annual event – March 20-26, 2005 – will include organized cleanup events across the state and prize drawings for participating groups.

In addition, the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet is coordinating a statewide environmental education contest to help students learn about the importance of responsible solid waste practices.

2. How can my classroom participate?

Classrooms from all over Kentucky – Grades 1-8 at private and public schools -- may enter the environmental education contest. Participating classrooms will study solid waste issues then produce materials to foster public awareness.

The 2005 contest has been redesigned so that younger students participate in a poster contest and older students create a multimedia public awareness campaign.

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3. How do I get more information?

You can pick up an entry form and information about the contest from your county cooperative extension office. Contact information for county extension offices is online at http://www.ca.uky.edu/county/ Another source of information is the Commonwealth Cleanup Week page http://www.waste.ky.gov/ccw/ at the Division of Waste Management Web site.

4. Who will judge the competition? What is the entry deadline?

Initial judging is at the school level. Elementary and middle schools will select <u>one</u> campaign winner in each grade category -- Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 -- and submit those entries to their county cooperative extension service office.

The winning campaigns from your school must be submitted to your local county extension agent by Feb. 4, 2005.

The county's extension specialist and/or solid waste coordinator will then select a county winner in each grade category and forward winning campaigns to the cabinet. The cabinet will select three winners in each grade category for a total of up to nine state winners.

5. What is the 2005 contest theme?

The theme is based on an old proverb, *Waste Not, Want Not* -- the less we waste, the less we lack in the future.

The proverb has been traced back to Thomas Fuller's *Gnomologia: Adagies and Proverbs* (1732). It was used in 1772 in a letter written by John Wesley, founder of Methodism. The first citation in the U.S. is in *Topper Takes a Trip* (1932) by Thomas Smith. From *Wise Words and Wives' Tales: the Origins, Meanings and Time-Honored Wisdom of Proverbs and Folk Sayings, Olde and New* by Stuart Flexner and Doris Flexner (Avon Books, New York, 1993). Pages 191-192.

A proverb is a saying that conveys practical wisdom or truth. This proverb is telling us that there are consequences for our actions. If we waste our resources today, we will "want" or "suffer from the lack of" (Merriam-Webster) those resources tomorrow.

One way to "waste not, want not" is to practice the three R's:

- ✓ **Reduce** the amount and toxicity of trash you discard.
- ✓ **Reuse** containers and products; repair what is broken or give it to someone who can repair it.
- ✓ **Recycle** as much as possible, which includes buying products with recycled content.

For more information on the three R's, go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/reduce.htm The Garbage and Recycling section of the Environmental Kids Club is online at http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/garbage.htm Materials include a Waste No Words puzzle at http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/games/crossword/index.htm TOP

6. What do we have to do to participate?

1. Study solid waste issues. Teachers have three excellent units of study on solid waste available online through the Kentucky Environmental Education Council at http://keec.ky.gov/keec_resources.htm The units, called *Be a Solid Waste Survivor*, were developed by teachers and are divided into primary, intermediate and middle-school levels.

Each unit has a number of standard-based activities, essential questions, technology ideas and portfolio suggestions. There is also an assessment rubric for each unit, a glossary and a set of teacher fact sheets. Another excellent curriculum, called *Quest for Less*, can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/quest/index.htm

2. Discuss the proverb "waste not, want not." How was it put in practice in the 1770s? How can we apply this principle today?

3. Younger students (Grades 1-2) participate in a poster contest and older students (Grades 3-5 and 6-8) create a multimedia public awareness campaign:

Grades 1-2 – Students create posters illustrating how their community can avoid wasting resources by using the three R's – reduce, reuse, recycle.

Poster artwork must be standard art poster board size -22" x 28" (smaller originals may be mounted onto this size board). Any thickness or color of art board or cardboard may be used. NO plywood or composition board will be accepted.

The use of copyrighted characters is prohibited.

Artwork may be rendered in any medium: pencil, ink, charcoal, crayon, oil, etc., but it must be flat art. While 3-D art is unacceptable, art pasted onto your board will be acceptable as long as it is flat art pasted securely to the poster board. An art entry may take the form of a poster, making sure that whatever form is used, the artwork conveys a message at a glance.

Grades 3-5 and 6-8 -- As a class project, create a public awareness campaign for your community. This must be a <u>classroom project</u> – not an individual student project or a combined classroom effort. The cabinet is developing a "how to" document to help guide you through the process.

The campaign materials produced by Grades 3-5 and 6-8 <u>must</u> include a poster (see poster requirements above). Also, at a minimum, the following elements should be included:

- A 30-second audio spot for radio (or) a 30-second video spot for TV
- A brief presentation explaining the reasoning behind the campaign (some presentation examples may include PowerPoint, desktop, flipchart, butcher paper, etc.)
- An action plan describing the goals of the campaign, the target audience and how the campaign will be implemented.
- 4. Submit your campaign for judging on a school-level. A school may have <u>one</u> winner from each grade category -- Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 for a total of three winners.
- 5. If one of your students or your class is a school winner, submit the entry to the county extension agent by **Feb. 4, 2005**, deadline.

7. What's in it for my class?

Students will have the opportunity to study solid waste issues and then apply their talents toward making the public aware of problems and solutions. Also, students will receive recognition as follows:

Participants -- Every child involved will get a certificate of participation. The certificates are included in the packets that will be available at the county extension offices.

School winners – Each winning student or classroom will get a certificate of achievement.

County winners – County winners will receive T-shirts and a county winner certificate.

State winners – Cabinet judges will ultimately choose up to three contest winners from each of three different categories -- Grades 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8 -- for a total of nine winning classrooms:

- Winning poster contest winners (Grades 1-2) will get \$50 and a plaque and his or her school will receive a \$1,500 grant to be used for an environmental education program.
- State classroom winners for Grades 3-5 and 6-8 will receive a plaque for their classroom and a \$2,500 grant to implement their campaigns in their local regions.

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8. Each contest has rules to follow. What about this contest?

The rules are very simple:

- 1) All Kentucky classrooms, Grades 1-8, are eligible to compete in the environmental education campaign.
- 2) Public awareness campaigns (Grades 3-5 and 6-8) must be created by an individual classroom.
- 3) All entries become property of the contest sponsors and may be used for promotional purposes. The decisions of the judges at all levels of competition are final.
- 4) All entries -- poster contest for Grades 1-2 and public awareness campaigns for Grades 3-5 and 6-8 -- <u>must</u> include a poster. Poster artwork must be standard art poster board size 22" x 28" (smaller originals may be mounted onto this size board). Any thickness or color of art board or cardboard may be used. NO plywood or composition board will be accepted.

The use of copyrighted characters is prohibited.

Artwork may be rendered in any medium: pencil, ink, charcoal, crayon, oil, etc., but it must be flat art. While 3-D art is unacceptable, art pasted onto your board will be acceptable as long as it is flat art pasted securely to the poster board. An art entry may take the form of a poster, making sure that whatever form is used, the artwork conveys a message at a glance.

- 5) Radio and TV spots must not exceed 30-seconds in length.
- 6) The winning campaigns (one from each grade category) from your school must be submitted to your local county cooperative extension agent by **Feb. 4, 2005.**
- 7) Official entry forms (photocopies are acceptable) must be <u>completed</u> and <u>securely attached</u> to entries, including the teacher's name and school name. The form and other information will be available at local extension service offices and online.

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- 9. What are the judging criteria for the poster contest and for the public awareness campaign contest?

See the poster contest and public awareness campaign entry forms for detailed information on how entries will be judged.

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